

28 September 2020

## **ROADMAP FOR SAN MARINO'S ACCESSION TO THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA**

### **Introduction**

In view of the fact that San Marino will be joining the European Higher Education Area 21 years after the launch of the Bologna Process and 10 years after the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) was officially established, the Sammarinese authorities and the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG) worked together on developing a roadmap for higher education reform in San Marino in accordance with the values, principles, and goals of the EHEA, as detailed below.

This Roadmap builds on the National Report submitted by San Marino in conjunction with its application for accession to the EHEA, the successive declarations and communiqués adopted by EHEA Ministers, the Bologna Process Implementation Report, and discussions with the Sammarinese authorities. It has been agreed with the Sammarinese authorities.

The Sammarinese authorities will implement this Roadmap in full respect of the competences of the Government, the national parliament, higher education institutions, and other stakeholders.

Estimated timelines are outlined under the different parts of the Roadmap. In general terms, these comprise two sets of actions. A first set concerns the launching of implementation measures, for which the deadline is generally 1 June 2021, i.e. approximately 6 months after the Rome Ministerial Conference, which will adopt the Roadmap. A second set of actions concern the completion of these actions. In general terms, the deadline for these should be a few months ahead of the Ministerial Conference following the Rome Conference, since this conference should be in a position to assess to what extent the Roadmap has been implemented. At the time of writing, based on the recommendation of the BFUG, it is assumed this conference will be held in Albania in May or June 2024, as a consequence of the postponement of the Rome conference. The deadlines in the Roadmap should be adjusted in accordance with the decision on the Ministerial conference following the Rome conference. For the time being, this deadline is indicated as 1 November 2023.

### **Structural reforms**

#### ***Qualifications framework***

Develop a National Qualifications Framework compatible with the QF-EHEA, incorporating a learning outcomes approach, and proceed to self-certifying the NQF against the Overarching Framework of Qualification of the EHEA (QF-EHEA) with the participation of foreign experts. San Marino will specify the extent to which the participation of foreign experts will be sought in the development of the NQF prior to self-certification.

Establish a timetable for this work and identify a national steering group and launch work on the NQF by 1 June 2021.

In the development of the NQF:

- Give due consideration to including flexible learning paths in the NQF, including alternative access routes to higher education other than by earning an academic secondary school leaving qualification.
- Give consideration to and specify the place of the *Corsi di Master Universitario*, the *Master universitario di primo livello*, and the *Master universitario di secondo livello* within the NQF, including progress routes in terms of further study and access to the labor market available to holders of these qualifications.

Complete the NQF, including self-certification, by 1 November 2023.

### ***Quality assurance***

Develop a plan for quality assuring higher education in San Marino in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

San Marino has indicated it will seek an agreement with a foreign quality assurance agency; this agency should operate in accordance with the ESG, as demonstrated through registration in EQAR or membership of ENQA.

Clarify the roles and functions of the Independent Assessment Body.

Engage in the activities and professional network of quality assurance agencies available through ENQA.

By 1 June 2021, develop a timetable for establishing such quality assurance arrangements.

By 1 November 2023, conclude an agreement with a foreign quality assurance agency, as specified above.

Propose, by 1 November 2023, legislation establishing the basis for conducting quality assurance in conformity with the European Standards and Guidelines and seek its adoption by Parliament.

### ***Recognition of qualifications***

Give due consideration introducing recognition of prior learning, including informal and non-formal learning, as part of the implementation of the ECTS User's Guide.

Establish a timetable for introducing the recognition of prior learning by 1 June 2021. By 1 November 2023 implement such measures to the extent they do not require modifying legislation and introduce any required legislation for submission to Parliament and seek its adoption.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION GOVERNANCE**

Implement the principles of the EHEA, as expressed in successive declarations and communiqués adopted by Ministers, concerning student and staff participation, with voting rights, in higher education governance.

By 1 June 2021, establish a timetable for giving duly elected representatives of staff and students voting rights in all higher governing bodies.

In this context, review the composition of the *Consiglio dell'Università* with a view to including student and staff representation as well as to a composition that would ensure the autonomy of the University, including ensuring that the Rector is elected by the appropriate body within the university without subsequent approval by the public authorities. Review the current arrangements with representatives of the State in the University Council, taking account of EHEA standards and practice for institutional autonomy.

By 1 June 2021, develop an overview of measures required to modify current arrangements in this sense and a timetable for their implementation leading to the submission of the required legislative measures to Parliament by 1 November 2023 and seek their adoption by Parliament.

## **LIFELONG LEARNING/SOCIAL DIMENSION OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

By 1 June 2021, develop a plan and timetable for stimulating the participation of underrepresented groups in higher education.

By 1 November 2023, take measures to stimulate the participation of underrepresented groups in higher education, including by creating flexible learning paths within the NQF. If these require legislative amendments, submit the required legislative measures to Parliament by 1 November 2023 and seek their adoption by Parliament.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION LEGISLATION**

By 1 June 2021, identify the extent to which implementing this Roadmap requires amending Sammarinese legislation. The overview should include a consideration of whether required legislation would best be submitted as individual amendments to current legislation, a comprehensive package of all amendments required, or a new law replacing the current legislation.

By 1 November 2023, prepare the required legislation for submission to Parliament and seek its adoption.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

Commit to providing the necessary data for the 2024 Implementation Report, in the format and by the date that will be determined by the BFUG.

Commit to appointing a contact person for the 2024 Implementation Report exercise. The contact person will coordinate the gathering of information for San Marino and will ensure that

all information requested is provided in English within the deadlines stipulated by the BFUG. The contact person should have a good knowledge of English orally and in writing.

### **PARTICIPATION IN THE WORK PROGRAM**

Appoint a delegation of 1-2 members to the BFUG with good working knowledge of English. The delegation will attend meetings of the BFUG, starting with the first meeting to be held after the Rome Ministerial Conference, and will ensure continuity in the Sammarinese representation throughout the work period.

Ensure participation in the BFUG Thematic Peer Groups (TPGs) for the implementation of the key commitments, coordinated by the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group, and relevant seminars and other peer learning activities.

San Marino is encouraged to nominate candidates for working and advisory groups in the 2020 – 24 EHEA work program.

### **COOPERATION WITH THE BFUG**

This roadmap will be implemented by the Sammarinese authorities and stakeholders in cooperation with the BFUG. The BFUG will appoint a small advisory group of members and consultative members that will facilitate cooperation, seek to identify possible partners for developing specific policy areas, and advise the BFUG on progress in the implementation of this road map. The Sammarinese authorities will facilitate the work of this group and provide a contact person or contact group for this work. The advisory group will, among others, cooperate with the Sammarinese delegation to the BFUG. The advisory group and San Marino will meet as required and at least once a year to discuss developments, including one meeting 1-2 months before the 1 June 2021 deadline and another meeting 1-2 months before the 1 November 2023 deadline, as outlined in this Roadmap. The advisory group will report back from these meetings to the BFUG.